districts of Rajasthan, if so, to what extent;

(b) what action is being taken for the survey of said deposits;

(c) the manner in which this gas is planned to be utilized;

(d) whether Pakistan is getting advantage indirectly from these gas reserves in Rajasthan due to indifferent attitude of the Central Government; and

(e) what is Government's policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) are operating in the Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan and have established 9.12 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) and 3.35 BCM of in-place gas reserves as on 1.4.2004 respectively.

Natural gas has been found in the block RJ-ON-90/1 in Barmer district of Rajasthan by M/s Cairn Energy Pvt. Ltd., which is under appraisal.

(c) OIL and ONGC are producing natural gas from Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan since July, 1996 at the rate of 7.2 lakhs cubic metre per day and 0.5 lakhs cubic metre per day respectively. The produced natural gas is supplied to Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Nigam Limited, Ramgarh for power generation through the pipeline operated by the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL).

(d) and (e) The discoveries of gas reserves found by both OIL and ONGC are entirely within Indian territory. These gas pools have not shown any abnormal pressure drop, thereby indicating that the gas pools are not drained out from the other side of the international border.

Subsidy on domestic LPG

2267. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide subsidy to private sector Reliance Industries Limited and gas firm GAIL for sale of LPG to domestic households;

(b) whether this offer of subsidy is subject to Government retaining the

power to fix maximum retail price for LPG at par with the PSU oil companies; and

(c) whether Reliance Industries and GAIL will also be directed to allot LPG outlets for the weaker sections of the society as is being done by PSU oil companies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The matter is under consideration.

IOC's investments abroad

2268. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IOC is set to become a single larger investor abroad by developing a gas block in the gigantic South Pars Offshore Fields alongwith Petroparas of Iran to produce liquefied natural gas;

(b) what is the expected amount to be invested for the purpose; and

(c) by when the Petro-chemical complex is expected to function?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) On 1.11.2004, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) and Petropars Ltd. of Iran have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to explore the possibility of developing an integrated project in Iran, consisting of:

(i) the "Upstream facilities" of one of the phases of the South Pars Gas Field for production of sufficient feed gas to produce 9.0 Million Tonnes of LNG per year in the related downstream facilities for liquefaction of gas; and

(ii) the related downstream Gas Liquefaction facilities ("LNG Facilities").

IOC and Petropars have submitted a pre-proposal to the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) on 28.2.2005 for in principle approval for the joint development of the inegrated project, on nomination basis.

(b) The investment requirement would be worked out later, based on the Detailed Feasibility Reports to be prepared after receipt of in-principle approval of NIOC.